

thank him for his continued service to our community.

SUPPORTING HISTORICALLY BLACK COLLEGES AND UNIVERSITIES

(Ms. JACKSON LEE asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Madam Speaker, I rise to join my colleagues in the Congressional Black Caucus to celebrate and recognize the importance of educational opportunities at the Historically Black Colleges and Universities, creating opportunities for thousands of young men and women, many of them first-time college attendees. I am delighted to have Texas Southern University in my congressional district and, as well, to have Prairie View A&M in the near area.

I was very instrumental in getting Hurricane Harvey relief dollars and financial aid relief for students at the campus of Texas Southern University in the amount of \$13 million and to be able to help digitize the projects for former U.S. Members of Congress Barbara Jordan and Mickey Leland.

As well, I remember working with Prairie View A&M when they helped establish a very grand criminal justice center that is educating many young people.

But I am really here to support the FUTURE Act, Fostering Undergraduate Talent by Unlocking Resources for Education, supported by the House and passed out of the House on September 17, 2019.

Unfortunately, this bill is held up in the Senate. This House bill is much better. We support the House bill and would ask the Senator from Tennessee to do what he should do, which I believe he has done: to make sure that bill goes out, and goes out as the House bill.

This is a bill to focus on STEM and to create opportunities for our young people. I support HBCUs and opportunities for those young people.

CONGRATULATING ROBERT C. ZIMMERMAN, JR., 2019 ROTARY CLUB PERSON OF THE YEAR, SUNBURY, PENNSYLVANIA

(Mr. KELLER asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. KELLER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Robert C. Zimmerman, Jr., on being named the 2019 Person of the Year by the Rotary Club of Sunbury, Pennsylvania. This recognition is well-deserved for someone who has exemplified the attributes of public servant leadership in our community for over 50 years.

Bob began his service to our community by serving our country in the United States Marine Corps, then later in the U.S. Army Reserve. His service also includes active work in community organizations like the United

Way, the Greater Susquehanna Valley Chamber of Commerce, and the Sunbury Area Community Foundation.

For the last 43 years, Robert has been working in his family business, Zimmerman Chrysler, Dodge, Jeep, RAM, where he continued Zimmerman's long tradition of treating customers like family.

On behalf of the people of Pennsylvania's 12th Congressional District, I again congratulate Robert C. Zimmerman, Jr., on being named Person of the Year by the Rotary Club of Sunbury, Pennsylvania.

CONGRESSIONAL UKRAINE CAUCUS MEETINGS

(Ms. KAPTUR asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Ms. KAPTUR. Madam Speaker, bipartisan support for the U.S.-Ukraine longstanding strategic partnership remains resolute.

Ukraine is the nation on the scrimmage line for liberty in Europe. And as I speak, Ukraine's armed services are protecting Europe's eastern flank from Russian aggression. Its people have made their commitment to democracy clear in its most recent elections, and over 14,000 Ukrainians have now died fighting Russia's illegal invasion.

Tomorrow, the Congressional Ukraine Caucus will join the Atlantic Council in hosting a half-day bipartisan, bicameral conference, entitled, "U.S. Strategic Interests in Ukraine." It will be held tomorrow at 11:30 in the Visitor Center Meeting Room North. I encourage my colleagues to come and spend a few minutes with us.

I am also pleased to host a roundtable with extraordinarily brave, award-winning Ukrainian journalist Myroslava Gongadze tomorrow at 10 o'clock in the morning in Rayburn 2362B.

Following the brutal murder of her husband, Myroslava tirelessly pursued justice on his behalf in the European Court of Human Rights and now serves as the Voice of America's chief for Ukrainian service.

Madam Speaker, I kindly invite all my colleagues to attend these important sessions.

RECOGNIZING THE SERVICE OF GERALD BRENCE

(Mr. TAYLOR asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. TAYLOR. Madam Speaker, today I rise to recognize Gerald Brence, the athletic director for the Plano Independent School District, for 39 years of dedicated service to the students and athletes in Plano, Texas.

Before earning the title of athletic director in 2007, Gerald Brence served as the head coach of the Plano Senior High School football team from 1992 to 2007. During his tenure, the Plano Sen-

ior Wildcats secured a State championship title in 1994 and made five trips to the State quarterfinals. One of the most winning coaches in Plano Senior High's history, Coach Brence has earned the respect and admiration of those around him.

Under his steadfast leadership as athletic director, Plano ISD earned State championships in seven different sports, including golf, tennis, baseball, boys basketball, boys soccer, girls soccer, and girls basketball.

Our community is proud of Director Brence's leadership within Plano ISD, and we are grateful for the countless lives he has inspired throughout his career. Now, upon his retirement, I ask my colleagues in the House of Representatives to join me in thanking Director Gerald Brence for his dedication to Plano ISD.

SUPPORT UKRAINE AND COUNTER THE RUSSIAN BEAR

(Mr. LAMALFA asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. LAMALFA. Madam Speaker, earlier tonight, the Democrat leadership of this House put to the floor a resolution, H. Res. 546, to state that Russia should not be allowed to officially rejoin the G7. That resolution calls out the President's desire to reengage with Russia in the G7 in an attempt to put Republican Members in the House in a false debate between supporting the President and supporting Ukraine's sovereignty.

Madam Speaker, there is no debate, at least not in the Republican Conference. As we all have voted before:

Russia must restore Ukraine's borders;

The United States must continue to provide military aid to Ukraine to withstand Russian aggression;

The United States must continue to assist our European allies in resisting Russian influence; and

The United States must continue to sanction the irresponsible regime of Vladimir Putin.

In all these policies, President Trump has actually gone further than President Obama: sanctions have increased; military aid has been elevated to include lethal weapons.

I strongly support the President's policies to continue to support Ukraine and counter the Russian bear.

Madam Speaker, NATO—where the President is over, today, working in London and remarked that NATO has become stronger—did not become a strong alliance by having the House of Representatives constantly undercut the Commander in Chief.

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RECOGNIZING HOLLY VEGA

(Mr. SPANO asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. SPANO. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize Holly Vega, a resident of my district, who was recently named the 2019 Armed Forces Insurance Military Spouse of the Year.

Military spouses are unsung heroes that are responsible for securing the homestead and supporting our servicemembers. And for Holly's husband, Marine Corps Lieutenant Colonel Javier Vega, she is a gift to their family and to their community.

Holly has been recognized for her generosity, her passion, and her heart for philanthropy, and for empowering other military spouses through community service opportunities and volunteerism. Her own selfless service has extended to the South Tampa Chamber of Commerce, Military Hearts Matter, and the Girl Scouts.

I am so grateful for the thousands of spouses like Holly whose sacrifices and stresses are sometimes overshadowed, but whose contributions to our national defense and our communities are priceless.

I thank you, Holly, for your passion and your drive to give to those in need. You indeed are a gift to many, and I salute you.

IN SUPPORT OF HISTORICALLY BLACK COLLEGES AND UNIVERSITIES

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 3, 2019, the gentlewoman from North Carolina (Ms. ADAMS) is recognized for 60 minutes as the designee of the majority leader.

Ms. ADAMS. Madam Speaker, it is a pleasure to be here this evening to address a very important topic. I rise to advocate, along with my colleagues who have come, for the 300,000 students that attend our Nation's historically Black colleges and universities, known as HBCUs.

As Congress looks to agree on a funding agreement for fiscal year 2020, we must keep in mind our Nation's 102 HBCUs that specialize in providing opportunity for low-income, first-generation African American students.

When I entered Congress, one of my first tasks when I got here was to launch the Congressional Bipartisan HBCU Caucus to bring greater attention to the issues that affect HBCUs and their students. I did so because more than anything I know the importance of HBCUs, not only in the African American community, but for our economy as a whole.

For more than 150 years, HBCUs have paved a way where there is no way for America's most talented Black minds. Despite discrimination and neglect, HBCUs have continued to pull above their weight. We know the facts and the figures, but it never hurts to repeat them.

HBCUs produce 27 percent of all African American STEM graduates; 40 percent of all African American engineers; 50 percent of all African American law-

yers; 50 percent of all African American public school teachers; and 80 percent of all African American judges; despite only educating 10 percent of all African American college students.

In my home State of North Carolina, we have 10 HBCUs currently operating and educating over 33,000 students: Bennett College; Elizabeth City State University; Fayetteville State University; Johnson C. Smith University—in my congressional district; Livingstone College; the North Carolina A&T State University, which is my alma mater and the largest public HBCU that produces African American engineers and the largest public HBCU in the Nation; along with North Carolina Central University; Saint Augustine's University; Shaw University; and last but not least, Winston-Salem State University.

They make a total of \$1.7 billion of economic impact in the State, supporting over 15,000 jobs and guaranteeing for their graduates \$20.7 billion in lifetime earnings.

They are more than a worthy investment for this body and for our State legislatures back home. And over the last 50 years, Congress has taken strides to correct for the historic lack of engagement and investment in these schools that contribute so much.

When enacted in 1965, the Higher Education Act represented the Federal Government's first recognition of the important mission that HBCUs serve. The HEA of 1965 first authorized Title III Institutional Aid, which is the key program that supports academic quality, institutional management, and financial stability at HBCUs.

Through multiple reauthorizations, Congress has sought to strengthen and to supplement this law by providing low-interest loans for schools to make infrastructure improvements. And, yes, by authorizing mandatory funding to help HBCUs prepare students for STEM careers, a mission that is sorely needed in a workforce that screams for diversity and inclusion.

So tonight, Madam Speaker, we will hear from this body's most tireless advocates for HBCUs and our students, many of whom are members of the HBCU Caucus, which now includes almost 100 Members of the House and Senate, and many of whom are alums of our Nation's HBCUs, and many of my colleagues from the Congressional Black Caucus, because we know firsthand what these schools mean to an aspiring student of color looking at education as a ticket to the middle class.

Madam Speaker, I stand tonight as a living testament to the necessity and to the importance of HBCUs. My mother, who raised me, was not an educated woman. She wasn't able to obtain a high school education and certainly not to attend an HBCU or any CU for that matter. But she understood how important education would be in my life.

My mom did domestic work. She cleaned other folks' houses for many years so I wouldn't have to do that.

But like those visionaries who founded these schools after surviving the horrors of slavery, my mother dreamed of a better future for me as her daughter. And when I could not fully recognize the potential in myself, it was an HBCU in North Carolina, North Carolina A&T State University, that saw something in me and made a committed investment towards my success.

A&T gave a poor, Black girl from the ghetto of Newark, New Jersey, an opportunity, because that school believed in opportunity and the fundamental importance of education that W.E.B. Du Bois spoke about. When he said, "Of all of the civil rights for which the world has struggled and fought for 500 years, the right to learn is undoubtedly the most fundamental."

That HBCU took me from where they found me and got me to where I needed to be. They shaped and molded me into what they knew I could become, just as all of our schools have for millions of Americans since the founding of the first HBCU, Cheyney University of Pennsylvania in 1836.

GENERAL LEAVE

Ms. ADAMS. Madam Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on the subject of my Special Order.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentlewoman from North Carolina?

There was no objection.

Ms. ADAMS. Madam Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from Georgia (Mr. DAVID SCOTT).

Mr. DAVID SCOTT of Georgia. Madam Speaker, I thank Congresswoman ADAMS. Let me just commend her as our leader of the HBCU Caucus up here. She does a marvelous job, and it is a pleasure to work with her. And I know all the people of North Carolina are very proud of the leadership that she is providing.

Madam Speaker, this is a particular honor for me, because I stand here as a premier example of why our historically Black colleges and universities are so important.

When I graduated from high school, my mother and father had no money. I got a job washing dishes in a Daytona Beach hotel, and the people of Daytona Beach, Florida, got together and raised \$350, and they said, "Here, go to the college of your choice." And thank God there was a Florida A&M University. And you know what, Madam Speaker? Florida A&M was on the trimester system. And guess what it cost for one trimester? \$350.

God is wonderful. And God has blessed this Nation because we have a Florida A&M, a Tuskegee, a North Carolina A&T, a Fort Valley, a Tennessee State. All of these great institutions to get a way out of no way for folks just like me.

That is why this is important. I wouldn't be in Congress today if it weren't for Florida A&M University,